



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director

ICSAA COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday January 25, 2023 · 3:00 – 5:00pm

Google Meet joining link: <https://meet.google.com/pnu-rvbo-iri>

Present

Dr. Baba-Singhri, Whitney Smith McIntosh

Absent

Dr. Whitfield, Aaron Sewell, Wendell Talley, Rosalind Peebles Fox, Ex-Officio San Wong,

Staff

Monica Stone, Kim Cheeks, Maria Guevara

Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm by Chair Ahmadu Baba-Singhri. Quorum is not met so unable to vote on matters.

DHR Realignment

Governor Reynolds has decided due to the large amount of state agencies 37. This makes it difficult to have strategic events. The president has less than 20. A draft of the bill has not been made available but it will be soon. Once available it is free to share. The opportunity to provide feedback will be available to help set a location within Health and Human Services. Community and Advocacy Services will gain some new partners from DHS. Will be able to provide more feedback into health equity and refugee services. Stone clarified no commissions or programs would be going away. Wong explained at this moment no changes will be made to commissions. Commissioner Smith McIntosh asked if a rough plan will be shared. More information should be available following March 2nd, which traditionally has been DHR day.

Office Report

Cheeks reports the virtual MLK event was held earlier in January. Awards were given to those who are upholding Dr. King's work.

One recipient worked on getting the naming of an airport terminal in Dubuque named after distinguished Tuskegee Airman, Robert L. Martin. More MLK events are occurring now with in person events coming back, this makes it difficult to pick dates and it affects attendance.

Commissioner Reports

Smith McIntosh reports she has done some research. She hopes to attend a future Minority Unemployment and Outreach Standing Committee which is led by Iowa Workforce. She would like to share information on Ft. Des Moines.

Dr. Baba-Singhri reports he has meet with black legislators, Representative Ruth Ann Gaines and former legislator Wayne Ford. Has worked on a minority impact statement hopes it will be posted soon. Asked Wong if he could have information on unemployment benefit recipient data.

Old Business

Dr. Baba-Singhri reports he does not have anything report.

New Business

Smith McIntosh reports she would like to find out if commissioners would be interested in meeting with Legislators and touring historical sites. To meet with legislators so they know the commission is active. Would like for the Commission to meet with the governor. Would like for the Commission to look at Black History in Iowa and do tours. For example visit Fort Des Moines, looking at positives and negatives. As well as doing community talking tours where people can reach out to the commission to see how things are going in the community. For example she is aware of what is going on in Des Moines but not Waterloo. Dr. Baba agrees sharing any information about history is good. She is doing a write up and send it out to commissioners so they can decide how to proceed.

Commission Name Change

Smith McIntosh would like the name changed to Commission on Black Iowans to be more inclusive.

Dr. Baba-Singhri suggested using Black in Iowa. Cheeks explained that in 1999 the original name of the commission was *Commission on the Status of Blacks* changed to current *The Commission on the Status of African-Americans*.

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned 3:41 pm